	(Apr. 03-Feb. 04) 2003-04	(Apr. 04-Feb. 05) 2004-05 (Prov.)	%Growth
	Quantity (TMT)	Quantity (TMT)	
LPG	195	202	4
Naphtha	2092	1722	(-) 17.7
Diesel (HSD)	90	163	81
Lobs	542	493	(-) 9.1
Fuel Oil/LSHS	596	409	(-) 31.3
CBFS	112	153	37
Bitumen	6	18	208
Coke	0	44	-
Por	9	11	26
Paraffin Wax	61	0	-
LSWR (RIL)	775	737	(-) 5.0
Sub total	5691	4496	(-) 20.9
Total Products Import	7363	7701	5

(c) Although the country is surplus in most petroleum products, except LPG, imports of non-transportation fuels except kerosene are freely allowed and are made on commercial considerations. Import of transportation fuels is allowed through IOC and by companies who have been granted marketing rights. Kerosene import is allowed through State Trading Enterprises like IOC, HPC and BPC.

Discriminatory pricing of gulf crude

*372. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many developing countries in South-East Asia are paying additional premium for gulf crude to the extent of $2.00 per barrel;

(b) if so, whether India and other affected countries have taken up the matter of discriminatory pricing of crude with the OPEC nations; and

(c) the quantum of additional premium India had to pay during the year 2004-05 on this account?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Most West Asian countries sell their crude oil at their Official Selling Price (OSP). The OSPs vary from destination to destination, largely because of differing degrees of competition in the market. There being well-organized petroleum and petroleum products markets in North America and West Europe, with West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent (dated) as well-recognized markers, buyers in these markets often secure a discount not available in less well-organized markets. Yet, it is not always that OSPs in these markets are lower than elsewhere. Thus, for part of 2004-05, the OSP for Asian countries was higher than that of Europe and USA and for the rest of the year, it was lower. The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj, Government of India, highlighted this in his keynote address to the OPEC International Seminar titled "Petroleum in an Interdependent World" held in Vienna in September, 2004. The issue was also raised in the First Round Table of Asian Oil Ministers on Stability, Security and Sustainability through Regional Cooperation headed by India in New Delhi on 6th January, 2005. The relevant conclusion of the Round Table, as set out in the Chairman's concluding remarks is reproduced below:

> (1) There is scope for improving Asian markets for petroleum and petroleum products. The issue requires careful study and detailed consideration, primarily among experts and operators with a view to identifying broad policy parameters that might require further consideration.
>
> (2) Prices should be sustained at levels which encourage Asian consumers to increase their purchase of Asian produce; at the same time, prices should be such as to encourage Asian producers to promote investment in oil and gas for Asian consumer destinations as an economic priority.

(c) Since a number of grades of crude oil are marketed by these countries to different regions, it is difficult to estimate exactly the quantum of the premium for a particular region *vis-a-vis* other regions. Moreover, it is also variable from time to time.